cofactor wherein the metal is of the groups 5-11 of the periodic system, and with a formylating agent, whereby one of the enantiomers is selectively converted in the corresponding N-formyl compound.

3. (Amended) The process of claim 2 wherein the formylating agent is formic acid, a formic acid amide or a formic acid ester.

4. (Amended) The process of any one of claim 1, wherein the peptide deformylase is of the class EC 3.5.2.27 or EC 3.5.1.31.

5. (Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the peptide deformylase contains the sequences (I) HEXXH, (ii) EGCLS and (iii) GXGXAAXQ.

6. (Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the peptide deformylase is obtainable from *Escherichia coli.*

7. (Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the bivalent metal is Fe, Ni, Mn or Co.

8. (Amended) The process of claim 7, wherein the bivalent metal is Ni.

9. (Amended) The process of claim 1, which further comprises adding a stabilisation agent.

10. (Amended) The process of claim 9 wherein the stabilisation agent is catalase.

11. (Amended) The process of claim 9 wherein the bivalent metal is Fe.

Please add the following new claims:

12. (New) The process of any one of claim 2, wherein the peptide deformylase is of the class EC 3.5.2.27 or EC 3.5.1.31.